



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

December 17, 2003

Dear Superintendent/ Administrator:

RE: NCLB 04-10 Extension of NCLB Final Consolidated Plan Deadline

The deadline for submitting the NCLB Final LEA Consolidated Plan has been extended to March 31, 2004. LEAs with approved NCLB Consolidated Applications will continue to receive funding under their approved Interim NCLB Consolidated Plans. The ADE is taking this action for several reasons. First, we have received many requests for clarification of Section 3 – Goals and Indicators, especially regarding the achievement data contained in the plan template, as well as the various sets of data used for accountability purposes. Second, district – level AYP data is currently undergoing verification and the determination of districts that failed to make AYP at the LEA level will not be announced until January 5, 2004. Third, of the small group of LEAs that have submitted plans that have been given an initial review, further explanations will be required from many of them. It is the expectation that NCLB Final Plans are being developed using a variety of information, including needs assessments of students and teachers as well as student achievement data. The validity of a plan is dependent upon the data used to develop it, so it is crucial that the planning committee understand the goals of NCLB and the achievement data of the LEA's students

The ADE will be offering more information and training to LEAs and allowing additional time to complete the plans. In addition to extending the due date, the ADE will take the following steps to ensure that NCLB plans are quality documents that outline the programs developed under and funded by NCLB dollars:

1. **The Research and Policy Division of ADE will upload all of the student achievement data, including the disaggregated data for all LEAs for the 2002 and 2003 test years after the data verification for District AYP is complete.** Since the capacity for LEAs to organize and use data varies widely across the state, we are providing every LEA with this basic information about its students. (See below for a more detailed discussion of the various sets of data and for what purpose each is used.) This data upload will only affect those sections of the plan that contain the student achievement data. All other fields will be unaffected, so for those LEAs whose plans are in "edit" status, you will not lose any narrative input.
2. **The Academic Achievement Division will conduct additional training sessions throughout the state beginning in January** to assist LEAs with plan development and, specifically, to explain how to use the data that appears in the template for each LEA. You will receive a separate notice of the sites and dates for these sessions as soon as they are finalized, or check the calendar of events on the ADE home page -

- www.ade.az.gov. The training materials will be made available on our NCLB web page - www.ade.state.az.us/asd/alert.asp
3. **The evaluation rubric for the NCLB Final LEA Consolidated Plan will also be available in January for download from our NCLB web page.** This should provide further guidance on the expectations for an approvable NCLB Final LEA Plan.
 4. For those diligent LEAs that have submitted a final plan, you will be contacted individually regarding your submission.

Data, AYP and the NCLB Plan

The ADE will pre-populate all data fields relevant to student proficiency status on the AIMS test. Due to differences in selection criteria used for these data, **they will not match those used in calculating district AYP, nor those data used for Achievement Profile determinations.** Under the federal NCLB legislation, it is expected that all students meet the Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives as outlined in Arizona's State Consolidated Application; therefore, the selection criteria used for the data in your LEA NCLB Final Consolidated Plan will include all students, regardless of English proficiency or stability. While students that did not start the academic year in the district are excluded from the AYP determination, they should **not be excluded** for the purposes of your LEA Final Consolidated Plan. Arizona's State Consolidated Application can be found at <http://www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/workbook.asp>.

You can continue to work on preparing your plan and entering narratives in the other sections.

Reminder: there is no automatic spelling or grammar checking in the text boxes of the plan.

Your final plan will be a public document, so you should use those features in your word processing program prior to entering text into the plan template. If you experience any problems with entering information, please contact the Support Center as directed on the Common Logon home page.

We hope by taking these steps to provide data in a uniform format, to make available additional information and training, and to extend the due date that there will be a clearer understanding of the requirements for the NCLB Final Plan. With a well-defined plan, NCLB programs can be implemented and the students and teachers in Arizona will be the ultimate beneficiaries. If you have any questions, please contact me by e-mail at nkonitz@ade.az.gov or at 602-542-7470.

Sincerely,

Nancy Konitzer
Deputy Associate Superintendent
Title I and NCLB Consolidated Activities

Cc: NCLB Coordinator